

THE ROAD TO **CIVIL WAR**™

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

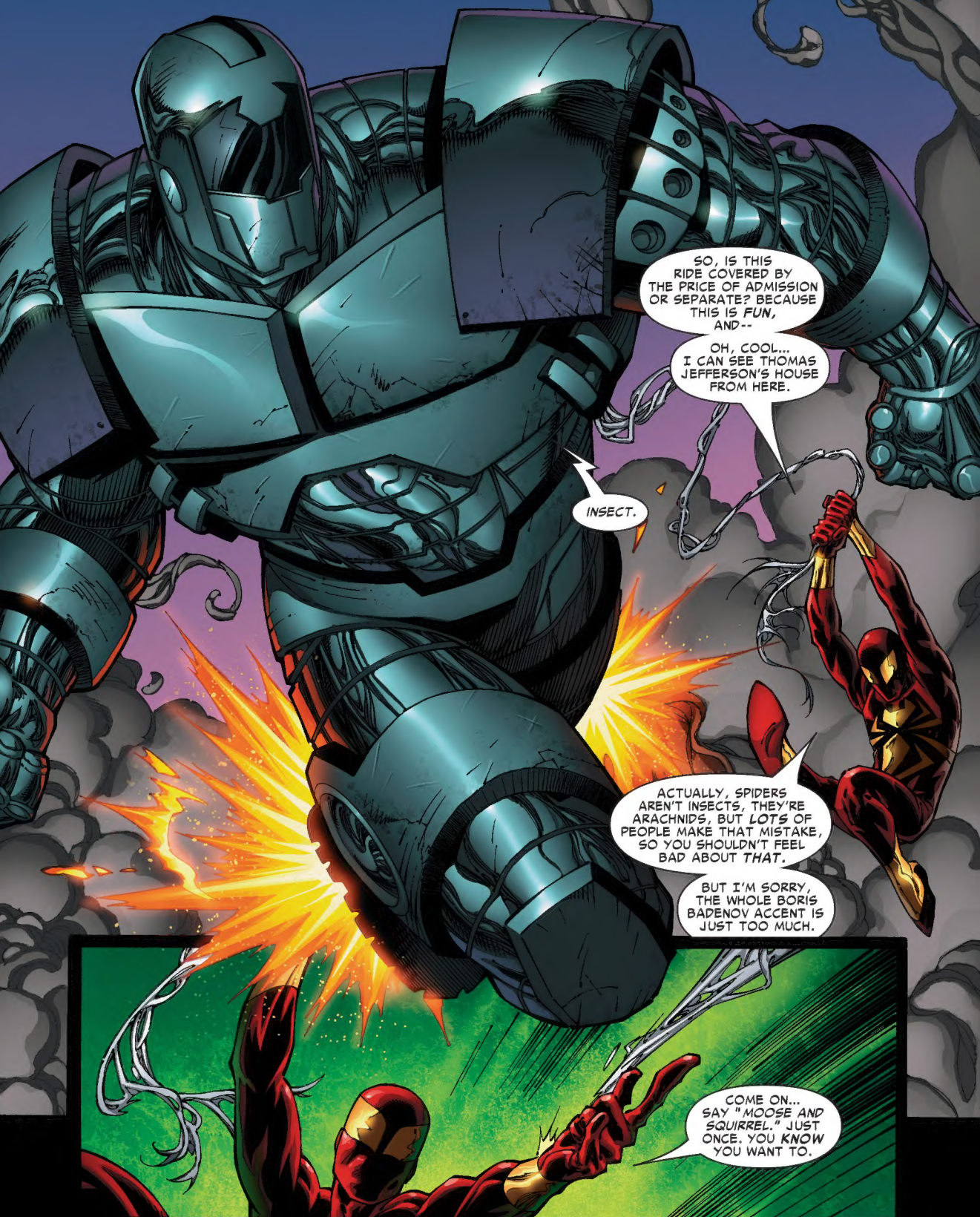
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Mr. Parker Goes to Washington

PART THREE OF THREE



SO, IS THIS
RIDE COVERED BY
THE PRICE OF ADMISSION
OR SEPARATE? BECAUSE
THIS IS FUN,
AND--

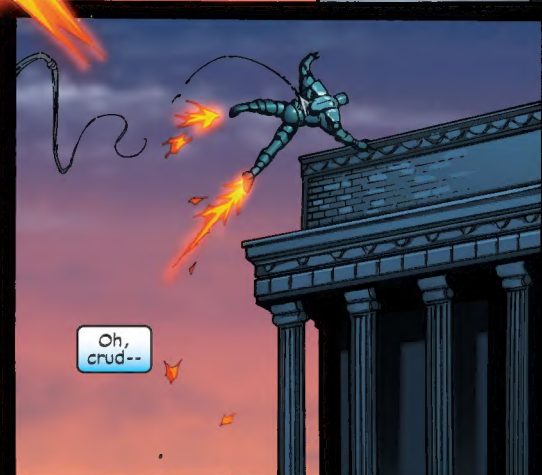
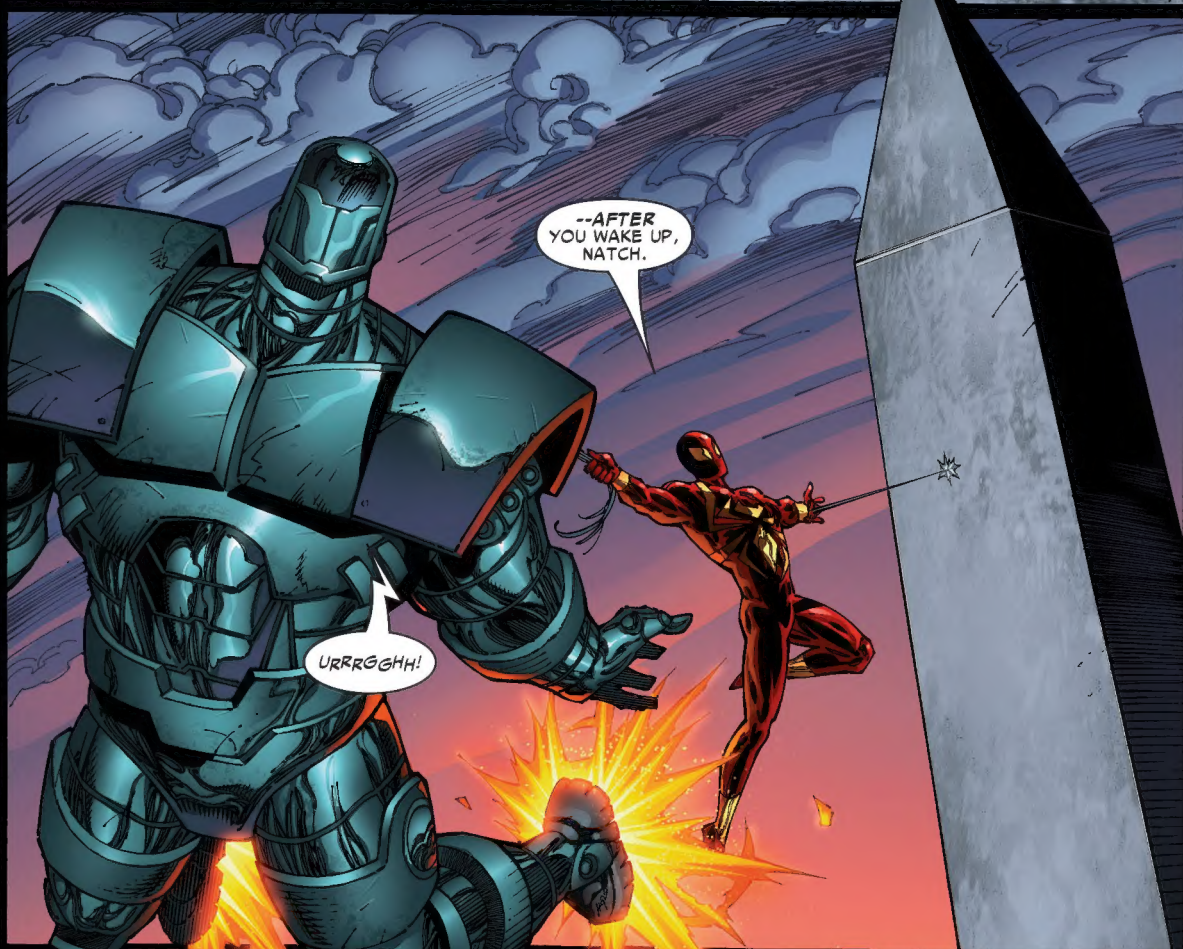
OH, COOL...
I CAN SEE THOMAS
JEFFERSON'S HOUSE
FROM HERE.

INSECT.

ACTUALLY, SPIDERS
AREN'T INSECTS, THEY'RE
ARACHNIDS, BUT LOTS OF
PEOPLE MAKE THAT MISTAKE,
SO YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL
BAD ABOUT THAT.

BUT I'M SORRY,
THE WHOLE BORIS
BADENOV ACCENT IS
JUST TOO MUCH.

COME ON...
SAY "MOOSE AND
SQUIRREL." JUST
ONCE. YOU KNOW
YOU WANT TO.





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FOURSCORE AND SEVEN
YEARS AGO OUR FATHERS
BROUGHT FORTH ON THIS
CONTINENT A NEW NATION,
CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY,
AND DEDICATED TO THE
PROPOSITION THAT ALL
MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL



NOW WE ARE ENGAGED
IN A GREAT CIVIL WAR,
TESTING WHETHER THAT
NATION, OR ANY NATION
SO CONCEIVED AND SO
DEDICATED, CAN LONG
ENDURE. WE ARE MET ON
A GREAT BATTLEFIELD
OF THAT WAR.



You gotta give
it to him...the man
could write, he--



--uh--
oh--





IT'S THE AMAZING GLIDING SPIDER-MAN, NEW FROM TOYCO, ONLY \$14.95. SHIPPING MAY NOT BE INCLUDED--

AND NOW TO FINISH THE ASSIGNMENT--

CAST YOUR EYES SKYWARD, BUB.

--BUT HANDLING WE'VE GOT DOWN TO A FINE ART.

URRRK!



KRASH!



AMERIKANSKI
HUMOR.
MOST
FUNNY.
WE KILL
NOW.



URCCCHH--

Damn...he's faster than he
looks. Granted, that isn't
saying much, but still--

IT IS RIGHT
THAT YOU SHOULD DIE
NOW, FOR YOU ARE SOON
TO BE AN EXTINCT BREED,
LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY
DEFENSELESS.

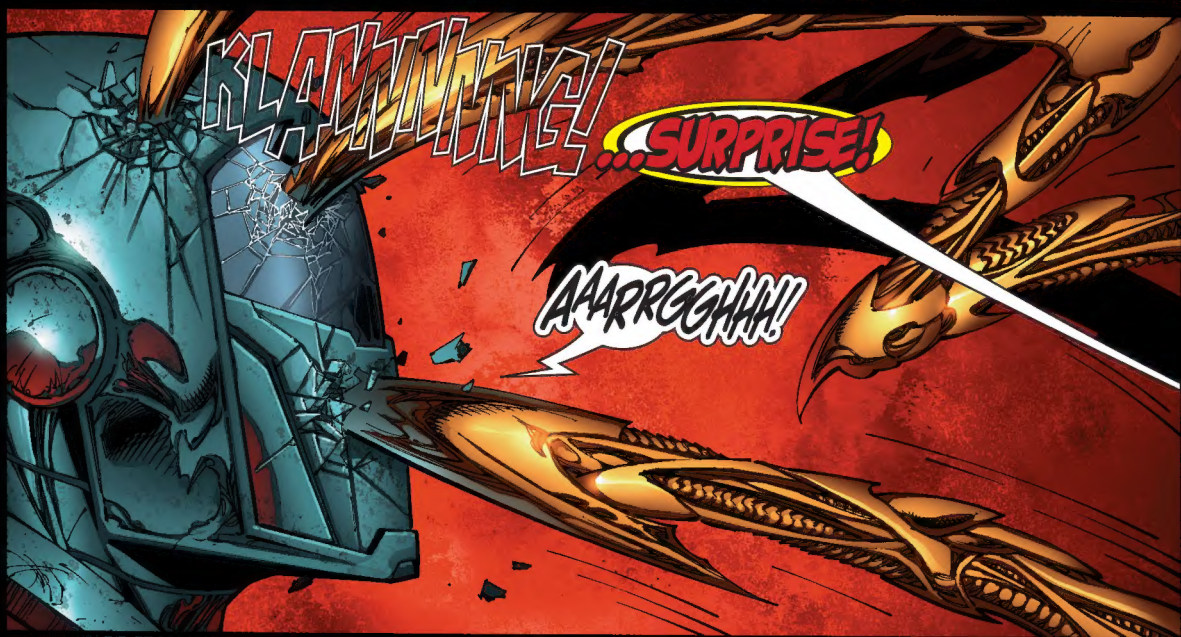
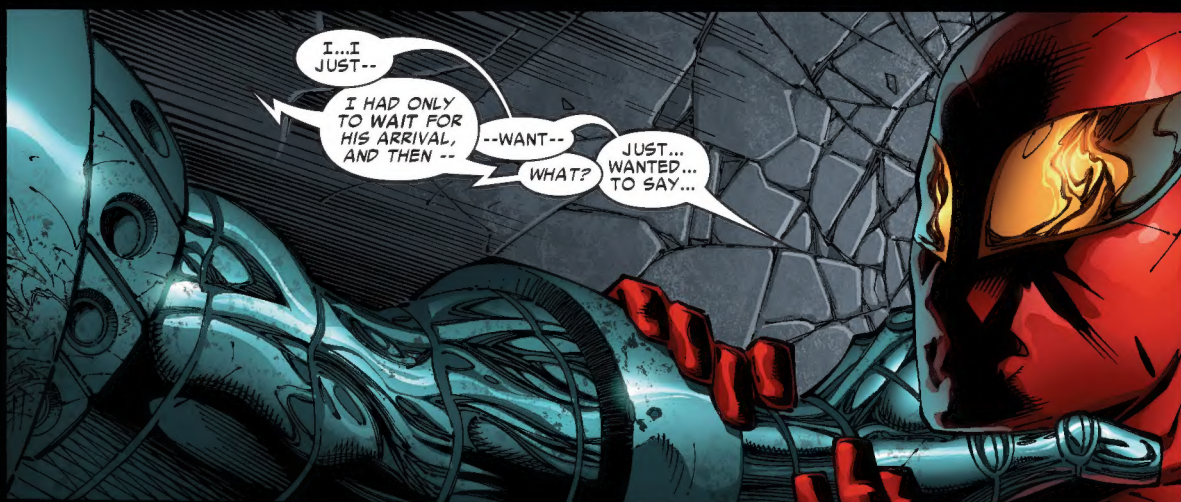


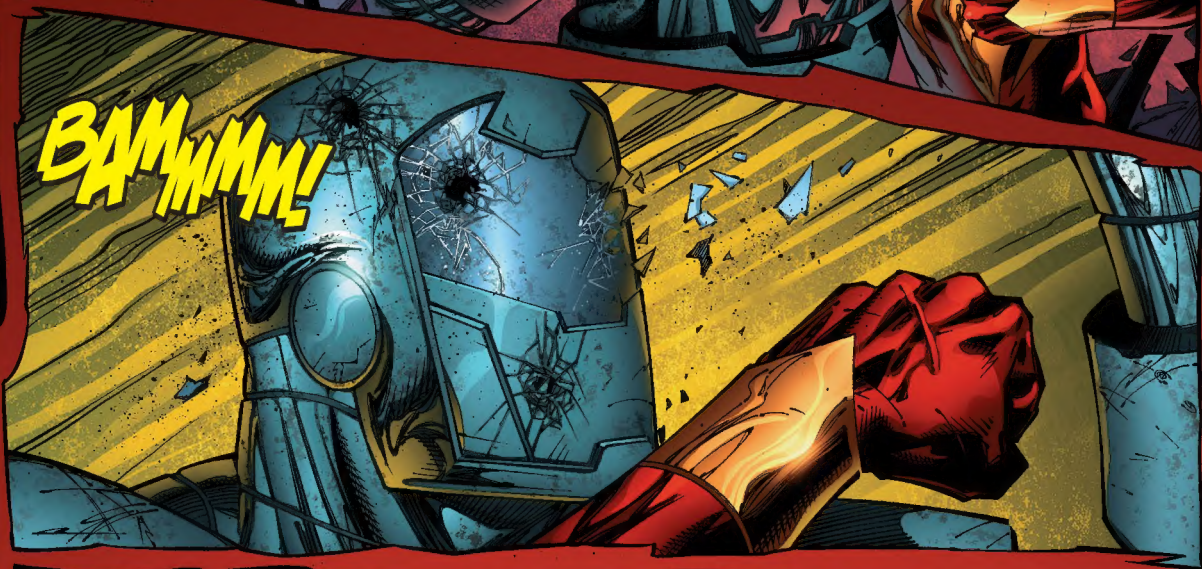
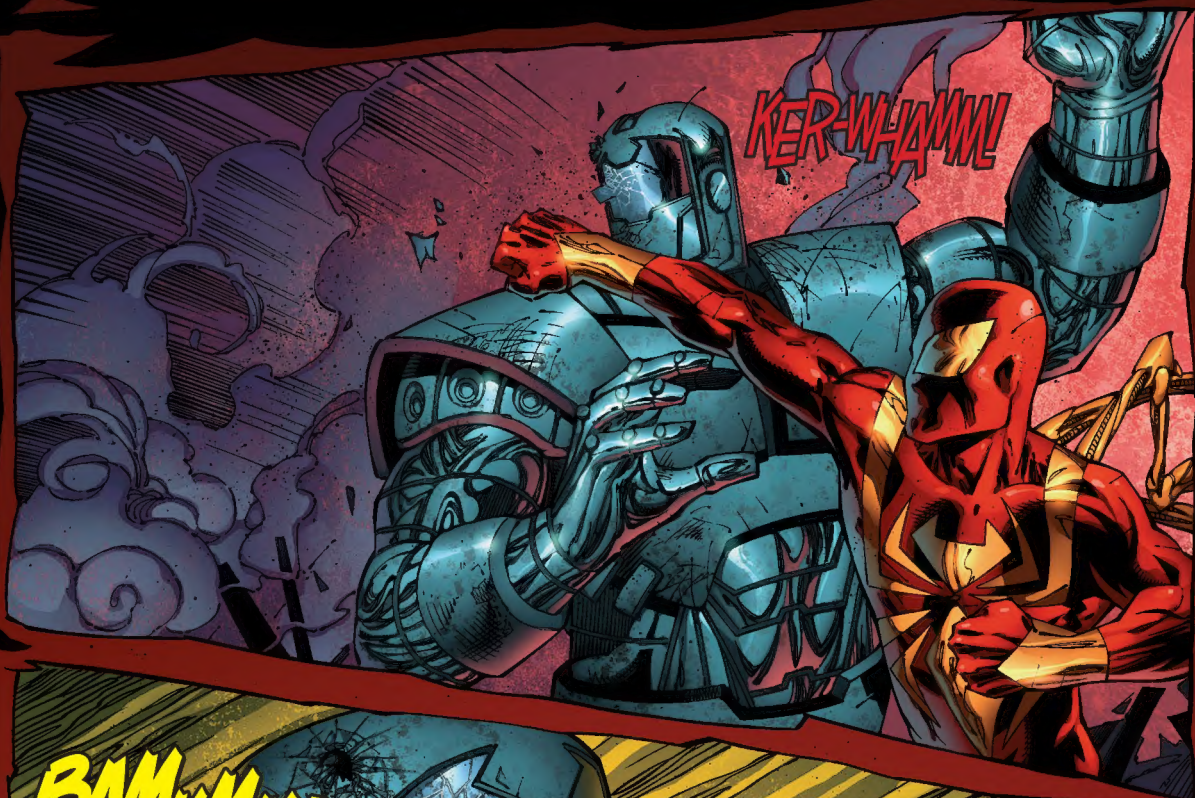
MY EMPLOYER
BELIEVES THAT WHEN TONY
STARK IS DEAD, THERE
WILL BE NO ONE TO SPEAK FOR
YOUR KIND...AND YOUR OWN
GOVERNMENT WILL HUNT YOU
DOWN AND ERADICATE YOU.
WHICH IS ONLY FITTING.



SINCE THE FALL
OF THE SOVIET UNION,
I AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN
FORCED TO SURVIVE ON
OUR OWN, WITHOUT SUPPORT,
AS MERCENARIES, TAKING
WHATEVER JOB CAME
ALONG. IT HAS
BEEN HARD.

BUT WHEN
MY PEOPLE WERE
CONTACTED IN SECRET
FOR THIS JOB, I KNEW
THAT IT WOULD BE
A PLEASURE.





I feel the armor start to give, and I know... I've got him...I've got him...I've--



ENOUGH!

No! He's making a run for it.



Just one chance...try to snare him again--



--nuts!



See, I TOLD Tony I needed rocket boots, I--



This is your chance to look good in D.C., Peter. Don't mess it up.

Think up something catchy, something historic...



AND DON'T COME BACK!



WE APPRECIATE
YOUR RETURN VISIT
AFTER YESTERDAY'S RATHER
DISTURBING EVENTS,
MR. STARK.



THANK YOU,
SENATOR DICKERSON.
HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE
INTERCESSION OF SPIDER-MAN,
I MIGHT NOT BE SITTING
HERE RIGHT NOW.

YES, BUT
NOT IN THE WAY
YOU THINK.

DEMONSTRATING,
YOU BELIEVE, THE
VALUE IN UNENCUMBERED
SUPERHUMANS?



I SUBMIT
THIS RECORDING,
MADE DURING THE
BATTLE YESTERDAY,
AS EXHIBIT
ONE.



IT IS RIGHT
THAT YOU SHOULD DIE
NOW, FOR YOU ARE SOON
TO BE AN EXTINCT BREED,
LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY
DEFENSELESS.

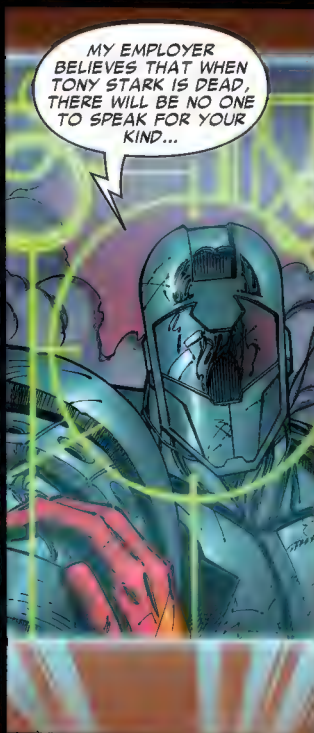


THE ATTACK AGAINST ME YESTERDAY
WAS NEITHER RANDOM NOR ILL-
CONSIDERED. IT WAS A DELIBERATE
ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE IN THE
DELIBERATIONS OF THIS COMMITTEE,
AND THE OUTCOME OF THE
PROPOSED SUPERHUMAN
REGISTRATION ACT.



THIS COMMITTEE
MUST BEAR IN MIND
THAT AMERICA'S ENEMIES
ARE NOT BOUND BY ANY
RULES MADE HERE. THEY
WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT
THOSE RULES, HOWEVER
WELL-INTENDED, FOR
THEIR OWN DARK
PURPOSES.

THE ATTACK
ON ME YESTERDAY
WAS ONLY THE FIRST
VOLLEY IN THAT
PROGRAM.



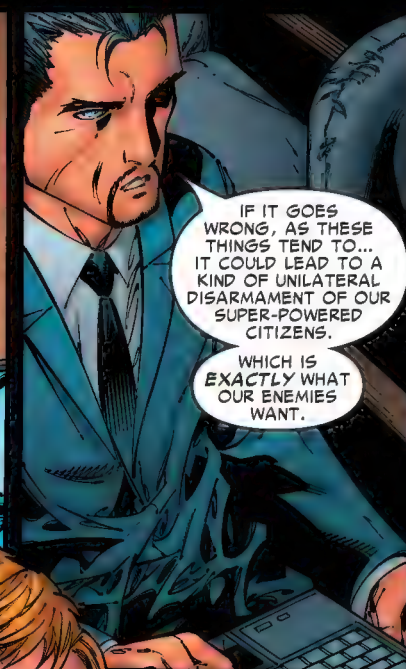
MY EMPLOYER BELIEVES THAT WHEN TONY STARK IS DEAD, THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO SPEAK FOR YOUR KIND...



...AND YOUR OWN GOVERNMENT WILL HUNT YOU DOWN AND ERADICATE YOU.



GENTLEMEN, I CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE TECHNICAL, LEGAL-SPEAK REASONS WHY THIS ACT IS A DANGEROUS STEP. BUT THE BIGGEST REASON IS ALWAYS THE SIMPLEST.



IF IT GOES WRONG, AS THESE THINGS TEND TO... IT COULD LEAD TO A KIND OF UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT OF OUR SUPER-POWERED CITIZENS.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT OUR ENEMIES WANT.



PUBLIC OPINION IS, AT THE MOMENT, EVENLY DIVIDED ON THE IDEA OF FORCED REGISTRATION.

GIVEN THAT DIVISION, PERHAPS IT MIGHT BE BEST TO TABLE THIS ACT FOR THE TIME BEING.

PERHAPS.

IN WHICH EVENT THAT RECORDING WOULD APPEAR TO BE VERY CONVENIENT TO YOUR ARGUMENT, MR. STARK.



WHICH OF COURSE RAISES THE OBVIOUS QUESTION--

--HOW DO WE KNOW IT IS AUTHENTIC?

I CAN ANSWER THAT, SENATOR.



I WAS THERE. I CAN VOUCH FOR ITS AUTHENTICITY.



AND THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I'D LIKE TO SAY TO THIS COMMITTEE--

HE NEVER LEARNS...

--AND IT'S THIS...



...YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT WOULD BE SIMPLER, AND MORE LEGAL, IF GUYS LIKE ME REGISTERED. IF WE WERE REGULATED, LIKE THE AMA OR ANY OF THOSE OTHER INITIAL-GROUPS.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT AFTER REGISTRATION ALWAYS COMES REGULATION.



YOU'RE ALL GOOD GUYS. BUT IF YOU HAD TO START DECIDING WHAT SORTS OF THINGS SUPERS SHOULD GET INVOLVED WITH, THEN YOU START ELIMINATING THE THINGS THEY SHOULD NOT GET INVOLVED WITH.

IN YOUR WELL-MEANING OPINION.



BUT GUYS LIKE ME GET INVOLVED IN THINGS SOMETIMES BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE WILL...BECAUSE IT'S NOT IN THE RULE BOOK, OR IT'S POLITICALLY INCONVENIENT, OR IT'S TOO WEIRD, OR--

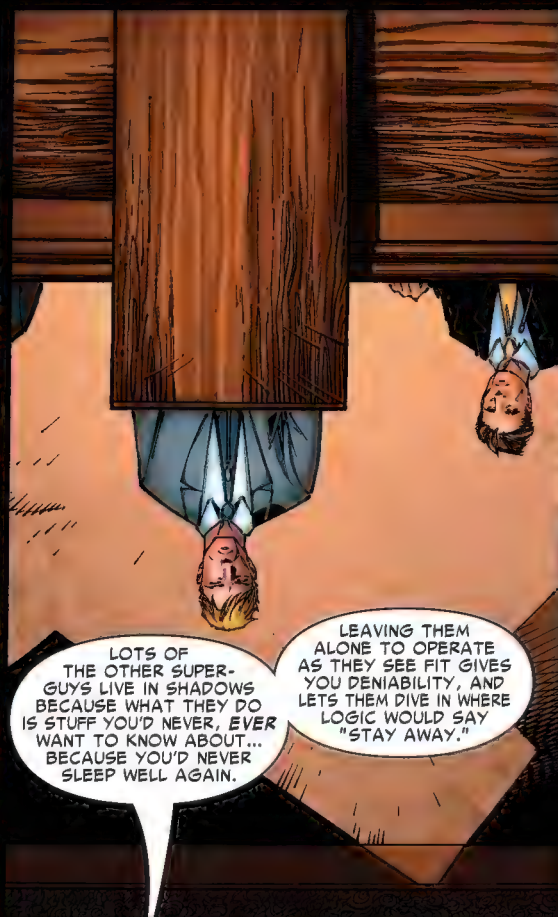
--OR SIMPLY BECAUSE NOBODY ELSE CARES.



THE GOVERNMENT,
THE BIG CORPORATIONS,
THE MONEY GUYS...THEY
ALL HAVE PLENTY OF PEOPLE
WILLING TO PUT IT ALL ON
THE LINE TO DEFEND
THEM.

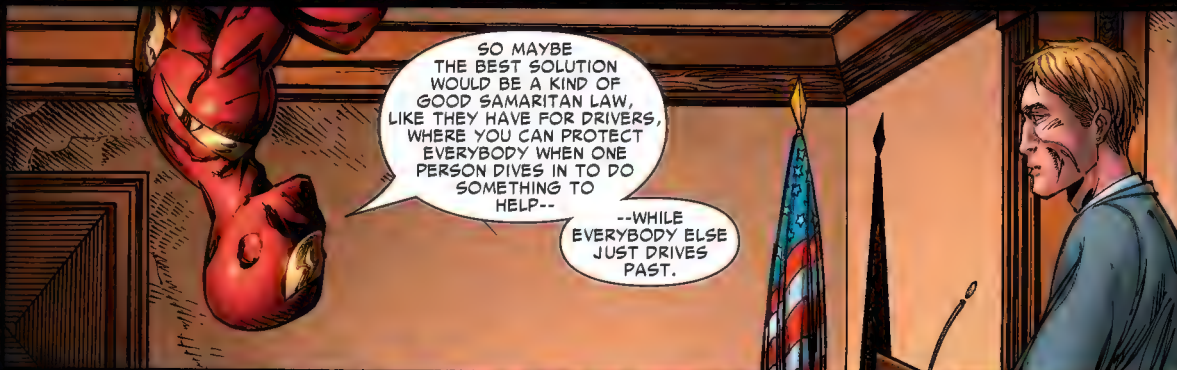
BUT SOMEBODY ON
THE EDGE, SOMEBODY
IN TROUBLE...THE KIND OF
GUY WISER MINDS WOULD
SAY SHOULD BE LEFT
TO SOLVE HIS OWN
PROBLEMS...

...WHO
DOES HE
GO TO?



LOTS OF
THE OTHER SUPER-
GUYS LIVE IN SHADOWS
BECAUSE WHAT THEY DO
IS STUFF YOU'D NEVER, EVER
WANT TO KNOW ABOUT...
BECAUSE YOU'D NEVER
SLEEP WELL AGAIN.

LEAVING THEM
ALONE TO OPERATE
AS THEY SEE FIT GIVES
YOU DENIABILITY, AND
LETS THEM DIVE IN WHERE
LOGIC WOULD SAY
"STAY AWAY."



SO MAYBE
THE BEST SOLUTION
WOULD BE A KIND OF
GOOD SAMARITAN LAW,
LIKE THEY HAVE FOR DRIVERS,
WHERE YOU CAN PROTECT
EVERYBODY WHEN ONE
PERSON DIVES IN TO DO
SOMETHING TO
HELP--

--WHILE
EVERYBODY ELSE
JUST DRIVES
PAST.



YOU MAKE
SOME INTERESTING
AND COMPELLING
POINTS, SON--

I WASN'T
FINISHED.

THANK
YOU, SIR, I'M
JUST--

YESSIR.



AS I SAID...
INTERESTING
POINTS.

BUT IF YOU
WANT THEM TO
GO ON THE **RECORD**,
IF YOU WANT THEM TO
BE **CONSIDERED**, YOU
MUST REMOVE THE MASK,
SIT IN THE WITNESS CHAIR,
AND SWEAR TO YOUR
TESTIMONY UNDER
OATH.

MEANING THAT
YOU WILL HAVE TO
PROVIDE THIS COMMITTEE
WITH YOUR FULL NAME
AND PLACE OF
RESIDENCE.

ARE YOU
WILLING TO DO
THAT, SON?

I
CAN'T.

AND
THAT, SON,
IS EXACTLY WHY
THIS LEGISLATION
ISN'T GOING TO
GO AWAY.

THIS IS A
NATION OF **LAWS**,
AND THOSE LAWS ARE
MEANINGLESS WITHOUT
THE ABILITY TO
ENFORCE THEM
EQUALLY.



YOU MAY BE
ABOVE THE **GROUND**,
SON, BUT YOU ARE NOT
ABOVE THE **LAW**. THAT
SUPER-POWER WE ALLOW
TO NO ONE IN THIS
REPUBLIC.

THE SENATE
RECORDER IS INSTRUCTED
TO STRIKE THE STATEMENTS
OFFERED HERE FROM THE
RECORD.

YES,
SIR.

SO...I
SHOULD GO,
THEN.

I THINK
THAT WOULD BE
ADVISABLE.



"NOW, MR. STARK, IF WE CAN RETURN TO YOUR SWORN TESTIMONY..."

HEY, PETER.

HEY, BOSS.

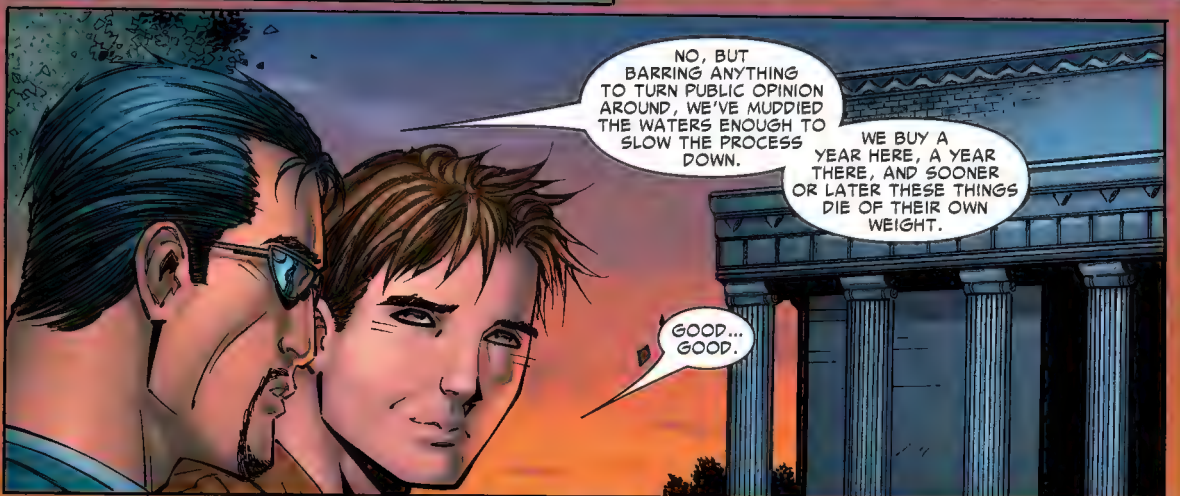
LOOK, I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOW I MOUTHED OFF IN THERE, AND IF YOU WANT TO FIRE ME--



NO. YOU SPOKE YOUR MIND ABOUT SOMETHING IMPORTANT. REPUBLICS DIE WHEN PEOPLE STOP DOING THAT.

MAIN THING IS, REGARDLESS OF WHAT WAS ACTUALLY ALLOWED ON THE RECORD, WE GAVE THEM A LOT TO THINK ABOUT.

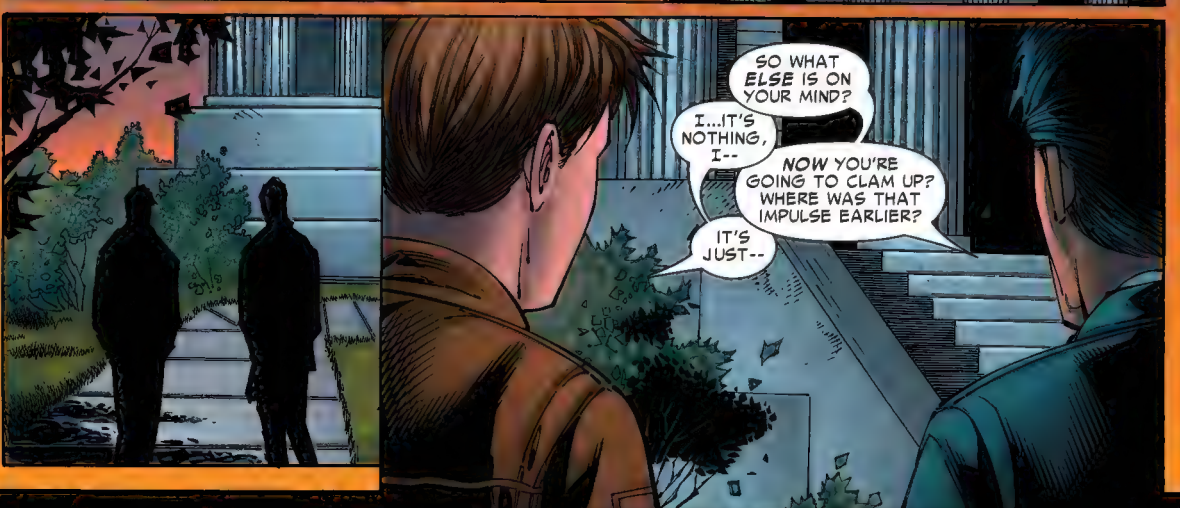
SO YOU THINK WE STOPPED THEM?



NO, BUT BARRING ANYTHING TO TURN PUBLIC OPINION AROUND, WE'VE MUDDIED THE WATERS ENOUGH TO SLOW THE PROCESS DOWN.

WE BUY A YEAR HERE, A YEAR THERE, AND SOONER OR LATER THESE THINGS DIE OF THEIR OWN WEIGHT.

GOOD... GOOD.



SO WHAT ELSE IS ON YOUR MIND?

I...IT'S NOTHING, I--

NOW YOU'RE GOING TO CLAM UP? WHERE WAS THAT IMPULSE EARLIER?

IT'S JUST--



--SOMETHING'S BEEN BOTHERING ME. I MEAN, NOBODY OUTSIDE THE SENATE COMMITTEE KNEW YOU WERE COMING IN YESTERDAY, EVEN THE REPORTERS DIDN'T KNOW.

BUT THE TITANIUM MAN KNEW. AND RIGHT BEFORE HE ATTACKED, YOU WERE IN A REAL HURRY TO GET AWAY FROM EVERYBODY, ALMOST AS IF YOU--

AS IF WHAT, PETER?



NOTHING. I GUESS.

I WAS SO WORRIED EARLIER THAT I'D DAMAGED THIS PLACE. BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

YES, IT IS.



I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRER LINCOLN. WHEN THE SOUTH BEGAN GOING ITS OWN WAY, HE KNEW THAT TAKING A POSITION AGAINST THEM WOULD LEAD TO CIVIL WAR.

BUT HE DID IT ANYWAY. BECAUSE HE UNDERSTOOD SOMETHING...UNDERSTOOD IT MORE PERHAPS THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THAT TIME.



HE KNEW THAT A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF CANNOT STAND... A NATION CANNOT BE DIVIDED AND SURVIVE.

UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATION, BROTHER HUNTED DOWN BROTHER, FRIEND TURNED AGAINST FRIEND. IT WAS TERRIBLE. IT WAS BLOODY.

IT WAS NECESSARY.



BECAUSE AT THE END, THE REPUBLIC HELD, AND THE NATION WAS RESTORED.

I SOMETIMES WONDER IF I WOULD HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO DO AS HE DID.

YEAH, WELL, FORTUNATELY THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, WHICH IS A GOOD THING--



--BECAUSE I DON'T THINK THE END OF THAT STORY WORKED OUT TOO WELL FOR MR. LINCOLN.



TONY...GIVEN HOW TITANIUM MAN'S SUDDEN APPEARANCE HELPED ENCOURAGE THE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THAT MAYBE REGISTRATION WASN'T IN OUR BEST NATIONAL INTEREST--

--I MEAN, YOU'D TELL ME IF YOU--

OF COURSE I WOULD, PETER...

"...OF COURSE
I WOULD."



YOU
HAVE THE
MONEY?

RIGHT HERE, IN
UNMARKED BILLS,
AS YOUR AGENCY
SPECIFIED.

MR. STARK ASKED ME TO TELL
YOU THAT YOUR COOPERATION
WAS BOTH APPRECIATED AND
WELL-TIMED.

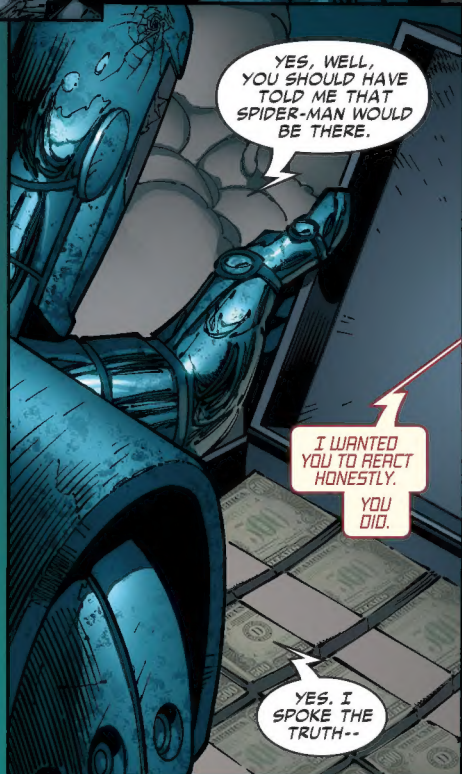


YES, WELL,
YOU SHOULD HAVE
TOLD ME THAT
SPIDER-MAN WOULD
BE THERE.

I WANTED
YOU TO REACT
HONESTLY.

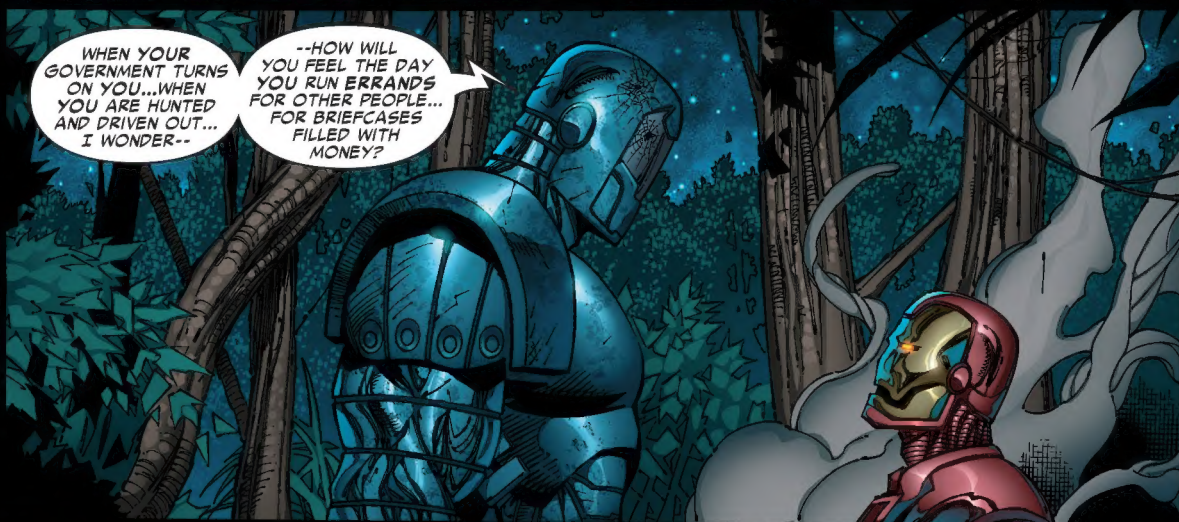
YOU
DID.

YES, I
SPOKE THE
TRUTH--



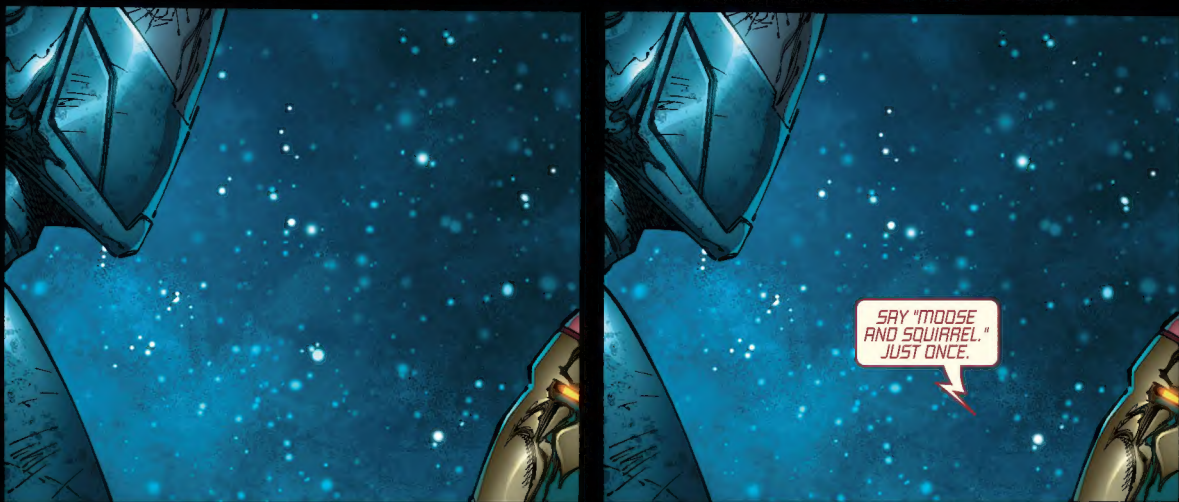


--IT WAS ALL THE TRUTH...WHAT HAS BECOME OF US IN RUSSIA...AND WHAT WILL BECOME OF YOU, VERY SOON, I THINK.



WHEN YOUR GOVERNMENT TURNS ON YOU...WHEN YOU ARE HUNTED AND DRIVEN OUT... I WONDER--

--HOW WILL YOU FEEL THE DAY YOU RUN ERRANDS FOR OTHER PEOPLE... FOR BRIEFCASES FILLED WITH MONEY?



SAY "MOOSE AND SQUIRREL." JUST ONCE.



AMERIKANSKI HUMOR.

BUT SOON, NOT SO FUNNY, YES?

"SOON, NOT SO FUNNY AT ALL."

YOU GONNA BE IN THE SHOWER MUCH LONGER, MJ?

JUST A FEW MINUTES.

GOOD...I CAN NOT SEEM TO KEEP MY EYES OPEN.

YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY, PETER. THAT'S A LOT OF STRESS.

WHY DON'T YOU TURN ON THE NEWS AND ZONE OUT? THAT'LL PUT YOU TO SLEEP.

OKELY-DOKELY.

--WHERE THE YANKEES PULLED IT OUT AGAINST KANSAS CITY 6-5 IN THE BOTTOM OF THE TENTH.

CLICK!

